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Acting
Monday
July 7, 1952

Staff meeting.

Ted Achilles called me from Paris to say Pleven was in a tremendous hurry to get a reply from us as to the amount of off-shore procurement contracts that would be placed in France.

Gene Beebe came over from Defense to discuss the press release and other arrangements to be made before the appointment of Ridgway as Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. forces in Europe. He will probably have General Handy as his Deputy.

I went to see the President and talked to him about a number of issues. He asked me to see Mr. Blevins Davis, born in Independence, Missouri, a rich man whose chief interest is in sponsoring ballets and plays. He sent a ballet to Paris last year, which did well there. I saw Mr. Davis at 3:00 o'clock. He has organized an all-negro cast for Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess", playing now to capacity audiences in Chicago. He is taking the troupe abroad later in the year to play in London, Vienna, and elsewhere. Our Cultural Relations people are anxious to have him stage performances in Berlin. There is difficulty in securing a theater there adequate to receive his sets. I promised to assist him in every way possible, and I think "Porgy and Bess" will have an unusual success abroad.

Messrs. Byington, Pollack, Durbrow, and others came to talk to me about the appointment of an Agricultural Attache in Rome. I had previously discussed this matter with John Kenney, Tannenwald, and Fitzgerald of MSA and DMS as well as with Charlie Brannan. Brannan is anxious

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to have the same man serve as Agricultural Attaché, as American Representative on the Food and Agriculture Organization, and as agronomist for MSA. MSA wants one man, and State is adamant in insisting on another. The result probably will be that we will have to appoint two.

There was great excitement this afternoon over the vote at the Republican National Convention in Chicago on the so-called Fair Play Rule for the selection of delegates. The Eisenhower forces had a majority over the Taft adherents of about 110 votes.

Tonight, we went to a large dinner at the Egyptian Embassy. They had a television set, and we watched the Convention after dinner. MacArthur, as keynoter, was scheduled to speak at 9:30 but did not actually go on until 5 minutes of 11:00, whereafter he delivered an oration which, with interruptions, lasted an hour. It was a rousing partisan appeal, but his appearance on television was not impressive.

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